THE PHANTOM

created by LEE FALK

"THE AVIATRIX"

PART ONE OF TWO

WRITTEN BY BEN RAAB
PENCILLED BY PAT QUINN
INKED BY PAT QUINN
AND KEN WHEATON
COLORED BY JOE BUCCO
LETTERED BY JEFF ECKLEBERRY
EDITED BY JOE GENTILE
AND GARRETT ANDERSON
COVER BY DOUG KLAUBA

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHANTOM CONSULTANTS
DR. BRYAN SHEDDEN
AND ED RHOADES

MOONSTONE is...

Joe Gentile - editor-in-chief
Dave Ulanski - art director
Lori G and Garrett Anderson - editorial
Greg Gass & Mike Reynolds - ground control
Kathleen O'Brien - web master
Joe Gentile & Dave Ulanski - publishers

visit the Moonstone website at
www.moonstonebooks.com Jnx_Scanz_HaCsA_III

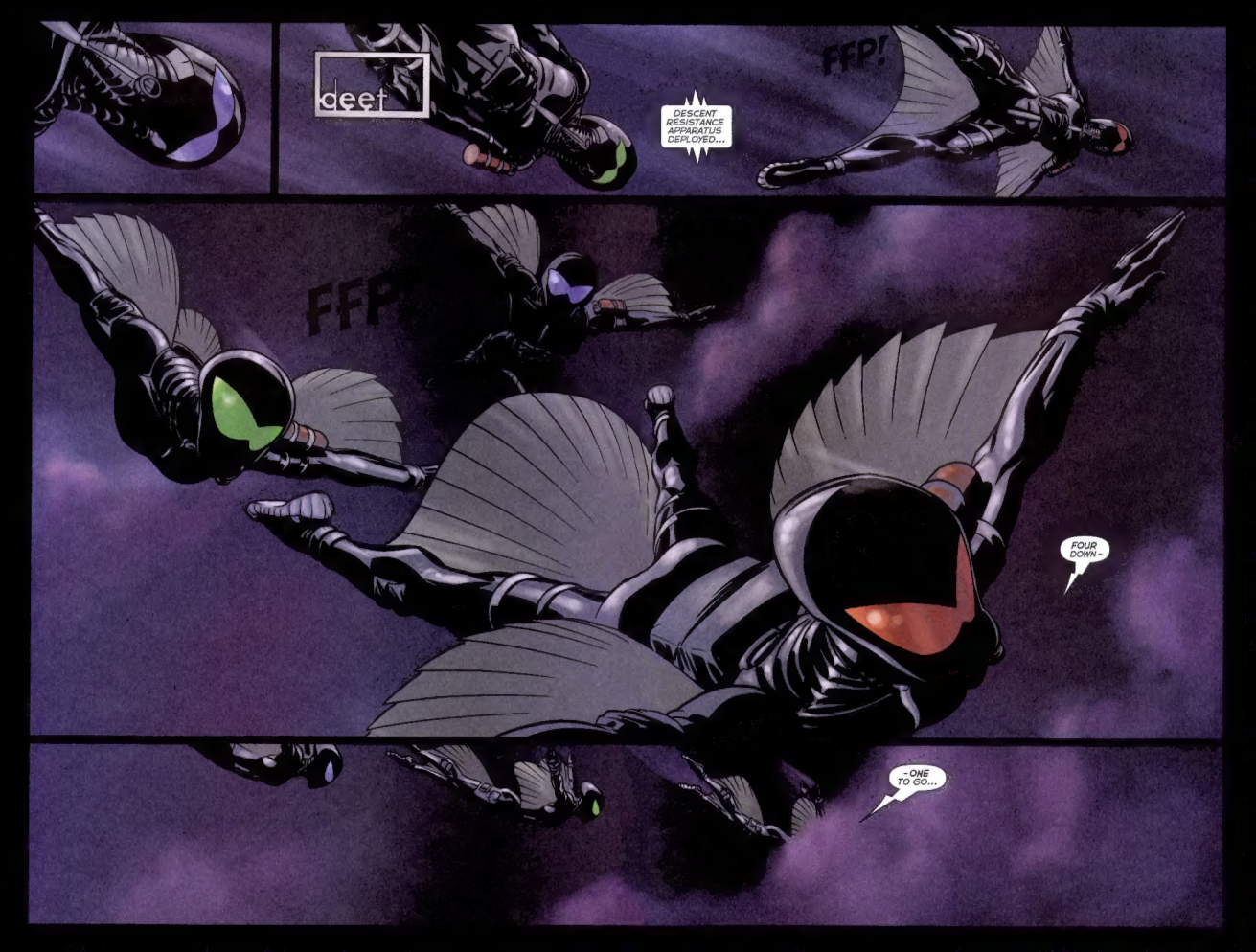
The Phantom #7 © 2005 King Features Syndicate, Inc. The Phantom is a trademark of Hearst Holdings, Inc. All rights reserved. Published by Moonstone, 582 Torrence Avenue, Calumet City, IL 60409 With the exception of review purposes, this book may not be reprinted in part or in whole without the express written consent of King Features and Moonstone. Printed in Canada

#7
MOONSTONE
$3.50
THE PHANTOM
Ben Raab
Pat Quinn
Ken Wheaton

...AND ON YOUR LEFT, MR. GAINES, YOU'LL SEE WE'RE ABOUT TO CRUISE OVER THE ISLE OF LUNTOK-
-WHICH MEANS WE SHOULD BE TOUCHING DOWN AT MAWITAAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN LESS THAN AN HOUR, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE FOR THE SUMMIT.
THANK YOU, CAPTAIN. NICE TO KNOW AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE ON MY PAYROLL UNDERSTANDS THE MEANING OF A DEADLINE.
MILLER, I BUILT G-TECH FROM A GARAGE HOBBY TO A MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR CONGLOMERATE BY PREDICTING TRENDS AND STAYING TEN STEPS AHEAD OF THE COMPETITION.
MR. GAINES, SIR, WE HAD NO IDEA HUGHES SOFTWARE WAS GOING TO RELEASE THEIR NEW OPERATING SYSTEM BEFORE CHRISTMAS-
IT'S THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THIS COMPANY'S CONTINUED SUCCESS RESTS. UPON WHICH IT DEPENDS...
IF MY BRAIN POWER IS GOING TO BE TIED UP THE NEXT THREE WEEKS HELPING REJUVENATE FLAGGING AFRICAN ECONOMIES, I NEED TO KNOW THAT FOUNDATION IS SECURE IN MY ABSENCE.
...YOU'RE ALL FIRED.
CLIK
BECAUSE IF OUR STOCK DROPS EVEN A FRACTION OF A POINT...
THUD
THE HELL WAS THAT?
UH, MR. GAINES, SIR?

HOLY...
CAPTAIN! THERE'S A STRANGE WOMAN ON THE PLANE!
MS. SHERMAN HAS HER FAIR SHARE OF QUIRKS LIKE ANYONE ELSE, MR. G, BUT SHE'S A HELL OF A FLIGHT ATTENDANT.
A REAL PLEASURE TO SERVE WITH...
NOT HER, YOU IMBECILE! ON THE WING!
SHE ATTACHED SOME KIND OF DEVICE! COULD BE A BOMB!
BEGGING YOUR PARDON, MR. GAINES, BUT PERHAPS YOU'VE HAD ONE TOO MANY WHISKEY SOURS?
IF I'M DRUNK -
HOLY CATS...

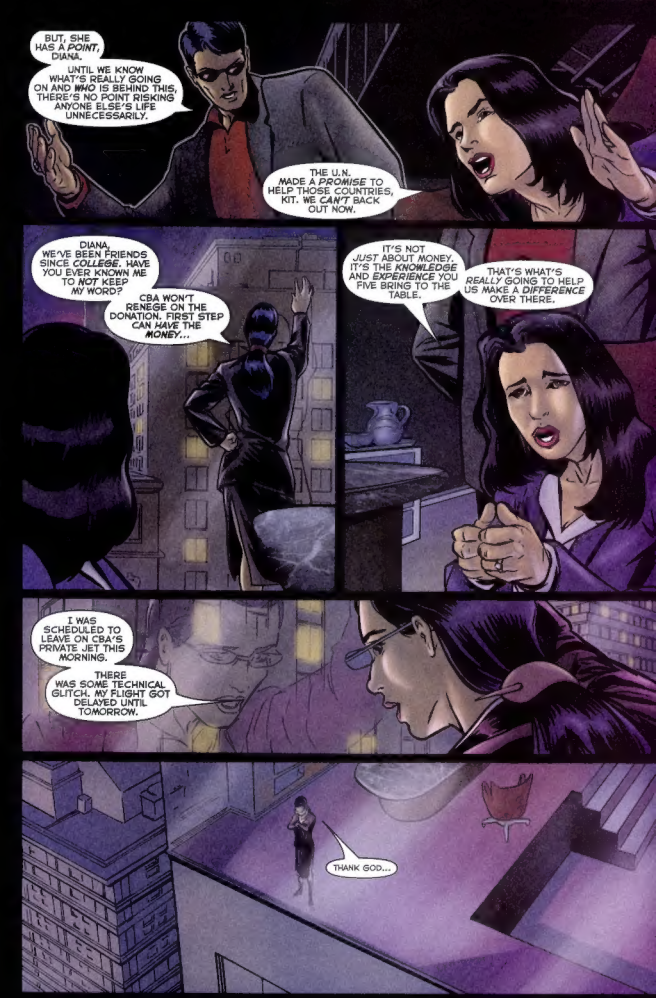
- THEN WHAT ARE YOU SMOKING?!
LOCKED AND LOADED.
DITTO.
SAYONARA.


deet
DESCENT RESISTANCE APPARATUS DEPLOYED...
FFP!
FFP
FOUR DOWN -
- ONE TO GO...

GET THIS DAMN THING ON THE GROUND! QUICK! BEFORE IT BLOWS!
I CAN'T! THE CONTROLS ARE JAMMED!
DRIP
?!
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
TSSS
GAK
KOFF!
URK!
"HEY, LEE... YOU GET AUDIO CONFIRMATION FROM FLIGHT GAMMA TANGO ONE YET?"

STEPHEN GAINES'S JET? ABOUT A HALF-HOUR AGO, RAY.
SHOULD BE TOUCHING DOWN ANY MINUTE NOW, MATTER OF FACT. RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.
SO, NO DISTRESS SIGNAL?
NOPE.
THEN, WE HAVE A *PROBLEM*.
TWO MINUTES AGO, RADAR TRACKED THEM ON A FIRM IN-BOUND COURSE. THEN, ALL OF SUDDEN, NO WARNING, THEY DEVIATED FROM THEIR ESTABLISHED FLIGHT PLAN.
SEE, *THAT'S* THE PROBLEM. ONE SECOND I HAD A *BLIP* -
WHERE TO?
- NOW I GOT *SQUAT*.

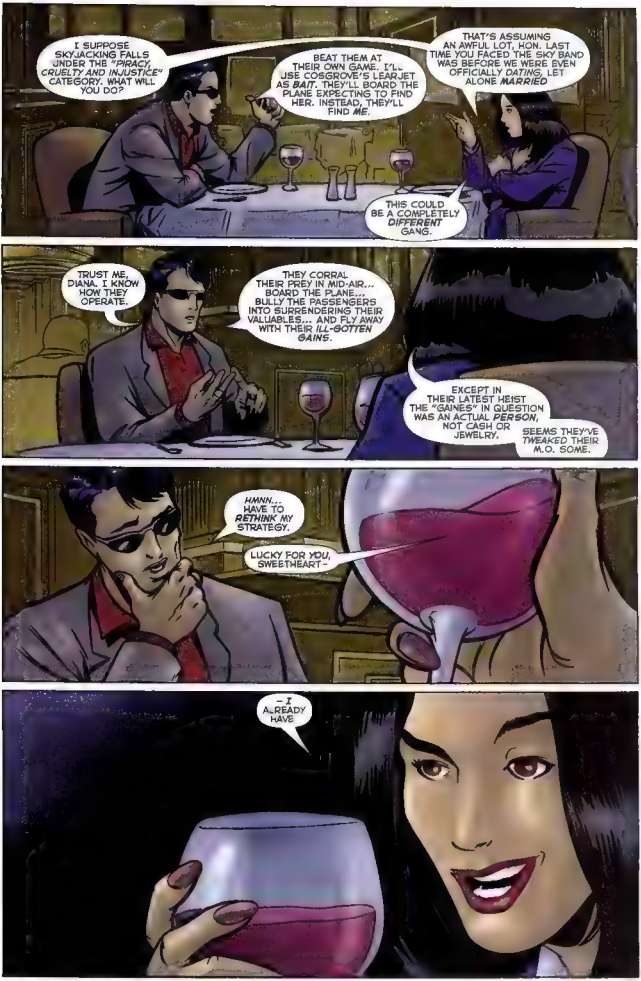
...FOR THOSE OF YOU JUST JOINING US... SOFTWARE WUNDERKIND AND G-TECH FOUNDER, STEPHEN GAINES, HAS MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED SOMEWHERE OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN–
–AS HAS KENICHI TANASE, C.E.O. OF JAPAN'S KUROSAWA PHARMACEUTICAL LABORATORIES –
– CLAUDETTE TALITOU, C.F.O. OF SWITZERLAND'S CREDIT CHEVALIER –
– AND JAMAL IBN-SAUD, PRESIDENT OF KUWAIT PETROL.
ALL FOUR WERE EN ROUTE TO THE "THIRD WORLD, FIRST STEP" ECONOMIC STIMULATION SUMMIT BEING HELD IN BANGALLA ON BEHALF OF SEVERAL AFRICAN NATIONS CURRENTLY SUFFERING DIRE FISCAL CRISES...
THOUGH INTERNATIONAL AUTHORITIES HAVE ISSUED NO STATEMENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE TERRORIST INVOLVEMENT, WITH TARAKIMO REBEL ALI GUTAALE STILL AT LARGE SOMEWHERE IN THAT REGION, SUSPICION IS HIGH.*
* AS SEEN IN PHANTOM #2.
ONLY CBA BROADCASTING'S VERY OWN CHAIRPERSON, KAREN COSGROVE – THE FIFTH AND FINAL MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ASSEMBLED BY U.N. DIRECTOR OF AFRO-ASIAN AFFAIRS DIANA PALMER-WALKER – HAS BEEN REPORTED SAFE.
WHAT IMPACT THESE DISAPPEARANCES WILL HAVE ON WALL STREET REMAINS TO BE SEEN. UNTIL THEN, ONE THING IS CERTAIN –
I'M NOT GOING.
KAREN, YOU CAN'T BAIL ON ME NOW. THIS SUMMIT IS TOO IMPORTANT.
WE HAVE A REAL OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS. WE JUST HAVE TO STAY THE COURSE.
HISTORICALLY? NO.
"STAY THE COURSE"? DIANA, DO YOU NOT HEAR YOURSELF? THOSE PEOPLE ARE MISSING! POSSIBLY DEAD!
KIT, CAN'T YOU PLEASE TALK SOME SENSE INTO YOUR WIFE?


BUT, SHE HAS A POINT, DIANA.
UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON AND WHO IS BEHIND THIS, THERE'S NO POINT RISKING ANYONE ELSE'S LIFE UNNECESSARILY.
THE U.N. MADE A PROMISE TO HELP THOSE COUNTRIES, KIT. WE CAN'T BACK OUT NOW.
DIANA, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE COLLEGE. HAVE YOU EVER KNOWN ME TO NOT KEEP MY WORD?
CBA WON'T RENEGE ON THE DONATION. FIRST STEP CAN HAVE THE MONEY...
IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY. IT'S THE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE YOU FIVE BRING TO THE TABLE.
THAT'S WHAT'S REALLY GOING TO HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE OVER THERE.
I WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ON CBA'S PRIVATE JET THIS MORNING.
THERE WAS SOME TECHNICAL GLITCH. MY FLIGHT GOT DELAYED UNTIL TOMORROW.
THANK GOD...

FOUR MULTI-BILLIONAIRES ARE *WORTHLESS* DEAD, KIT...
...I'D BET ALL THE TREASURE IN THE SKULL CAVE THEY WERE *KIDNAPPED*.
BY WHO?
WHO DO *YOU* THINK?
DIANA, IT'S BEEN ALMOST *TWENTY* YEARS
AND *YOU'RE* STILL GOING STRONG.
BESIDES, WHO ELSE DO YOU KNOW THAT CAN PULL OFF A STUNT LIKE THIS AT 30,000 FEET AND THEN JUST *DISAPPEAR* INTO THIN AIR?
THE *SKY BAND*...

"TWICE OUR PATHS HAVE CROSSED."
"WHETHER IT BE THEIR UNIQUE BRAND OF AIRBORNE *PIRACY*--"
"--OR RISKING A POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT FOR THE SAKE OF PROFIT BY TRYING TO *ABDUCT* A HIGH-RANKING GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL--"
"--BOTH ENCOUNTERS PROVED THESE BLACK WIDOWS ARE AS *DANGEROUS* AS THEY ARE *BEAUTIFUL*."
I'LL SAY. DIDN'T ONE OF THEM FALL *IN LOVE* WITH YOU?
ACTUALLY, I SEEM TO RECALL A *FEW* BEING TAKEN BY MY CHARMS...
I WAS TALKING ABOUT THAT *BRUNETTE*.
SALA. NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE *HER* AGAIN...

PINOT GRIGIO SANTA MARGHERITA FOR THE LADY—
AND *MILK* FOR THE GENTLEMAN.
OH, *MY* GOD, KIT.
YOU ARE *NOT* STILL THINKING ABOUT *HER*...
WHAT IF YOU'RE RIGHT, DIANA? WHAT IF IT *IS* THE SKY BAND?
THIS IS *BIGGER* THAN JUST SOME PETTY RANSOM...
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF... *MILLIONS* OF PEOPLE ARE *DEPENDING* ON THAT COMMITTEE'S KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.
HALF A *CONTINENT* COULD BENEFIT FROM WHAT THEY AND THEIR COMPANIES HAVE TO OFFER.
I HAVE TO *FIND* THEM...

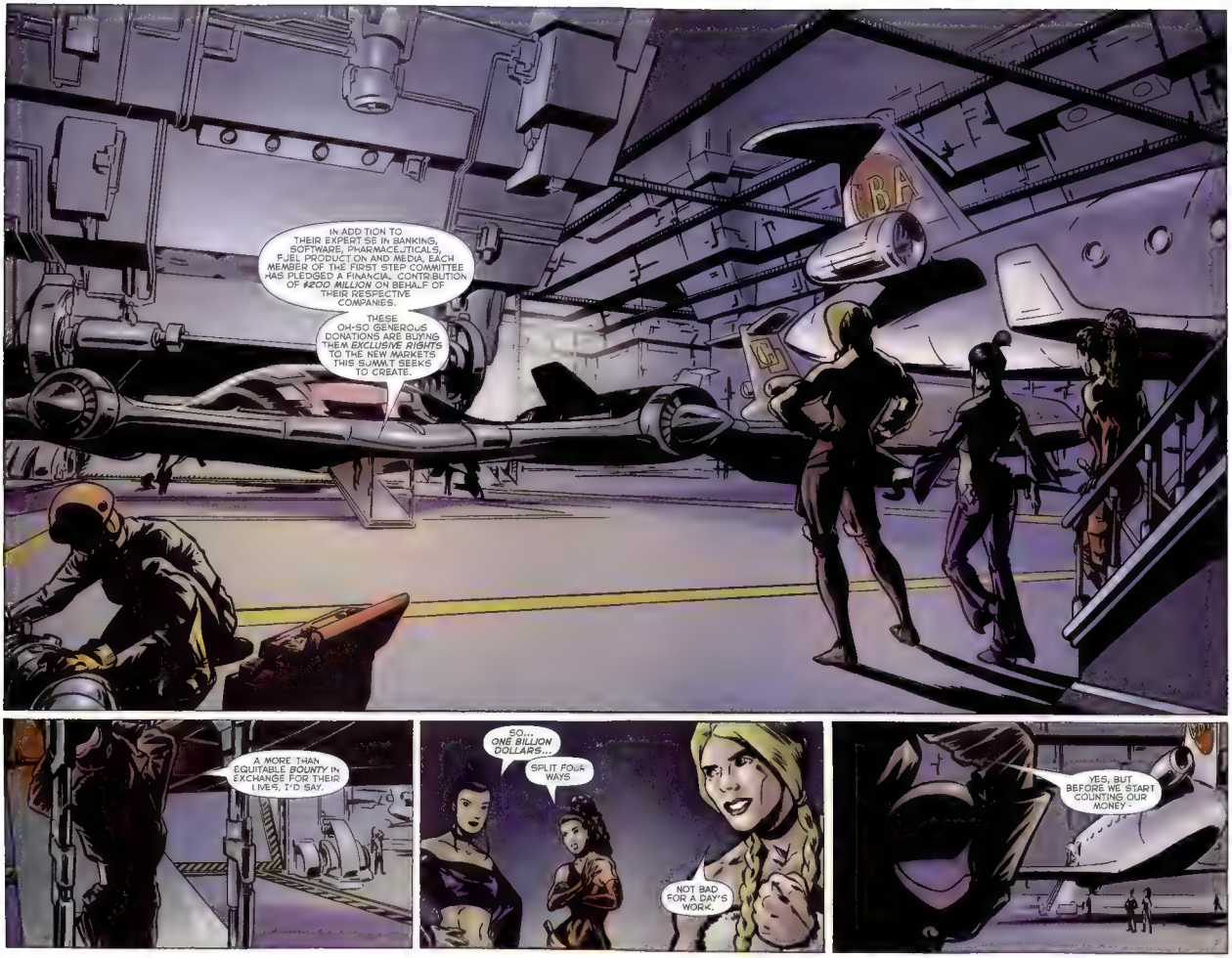

I SUPPOSE SKYJACKING FALLS UNDER THE "PIRACY, CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE" CATEGORY. WHAT WILL YOU DO?
BEAT THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME. I'LL USE COSGROVE'S LEARJET AS BAIT. THEY'LL BOARD THE PLANE EXPECTING TO FIND HER. INSTEAD, THEY'LL FIND ME.
THAT'S ASSUMING AN AWFUL LOT, HON. LAST TIME YOU FACED THE SKY BAND WAS BEFORE WE WERE EVEN OFFICIALLY DATING, LET ALONE MARRIED
THIS COULD BE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT GANG.
TRUST ME, DIANA. I KNOW HOW THEY OPERATE.
THEY CORRAL THEIR PREY IN MID-AIR... BOARD THE PLANE... BULLY THE PASSENGERS INTO SURRENDERING THEIR VALUABLES... AND FLY AWAY WITH THEIR ILL-GOTTEN GAINS.
EXCEPT IN THEIR LATEST HEIST THE "GAINES" IN QUESTION WAS AN ACTUAL PERSON, NOT CASH OR JEWELRY.
SEEMS THEY'VE TWEAKED THEIR M.O. SOME.
HMMN... HAVE TO RETHINK MY STRATEGY.
LUCKY FOR YOU, SWEETHEART -
- I ALREADY HAVE

HAVE A SAFE FLIGHT, MS. COSGROVE
THANK YOU, HAROLD
PRINCESS ONE TO SKY QUEEN... THE PAWN IS EN ROUTE TO THE AIRPORT. WE ARE GO.
COPY THAT. PROCEED TO THE RENDEZVOUS FOR INTERCEPTION
ON MY WAY
WELCOME ABOARD, MS. COSGROVE...

YO. KNOW THE DRILL, GIRLS. LET'S DO THIS
RIGHT WING SECURE.
DITTO THE LEFT WING
AND THE RUDDER.

PRINCESS ONE TO SKY QUEEN, DO YOU COPY?
GO AHEAD, PRINCESS...
WE'RE GOOD TO GO. YOU MAY ASSUME CONTROL.
BRACE YOURSELVES, LADIES... ESTABLISHING SATELLITE CONNECTION... ACTIVATING REMOTE MANUAL OVERRIDE...
AILERONS RESPONSIVE... INITIATING COURSE REDIRECTION...
SKY QUEEN TO PRINCESS TWO... TIME TO ROCK-A-BYE BABY..
NIGHTY-NIGHT, ALL

WHAT A RUSH! THESE MODIFIED WINGSUITS ARE AMAZING!
DRAG IS MINIMAL... MANEUVERABILITY IS ENHANCED TEN-FOLD... SKY QUEEN'S REALLY OUTDONE HERSELF THIS TIME.
HEAR THAT BOSS?
THE COMPLIMENTS ARE ALL YOURS, LADIES. YOU DO YOUR PREDECESSORS PROUD.
BESIDES, IT'S NOT THE GEAR THAT GETS THE JOB DONE. IT'S THE WOMAN.
NOW GET INSIDE AND PREP THE HANGAR FOR ARRIVAL.
WE'RE COMING IN.


IN ADDITION TO THEIR EXPERTISE IN BANKING, SOFTWARE, PHARMACEUTICALS, FUEL PRODUCTION AND MEDIA, EACH MEMBER OF THE FIRST STEP COMMITTEE HAS PLEDGED A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION OF $200 MILLION ON BEHALF OF THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.
THESE OH-SO GENEROUS DONATIONS ARE BUYING THEM EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO THE NEW MARKETS THIS SUMMIT SEEKS TO CREATE.
A MORE THAN EQUITABLE BOUNTY IN EXCHANGE FOR THEIR LIVES, I'D SAY.
SO... ONE BILLION DOLLARS...
SPLIT FOUR WAYS
NOT BAD FOR A DAY'S WORK.
YES, BUT BEFORE WE START COUNTING OUR MONEY -

"- IT'S TIME MS. COSGROVE JOINED HER FELLOW HOSTAGES."
:?!:
ZZZZZZ!
YOU WERE EXPECTING SOMEONE ELSE?
:NNH!:
YES, SKY QUEEN
AISHA... MIHO... SEE WHAT'S TAKING ZOPHIA SO LONG.
HELP HER DEPOSIT MS. COSGROVE AND PILOT IN THE CELLBLOCK AND MEET ME IN THE CONTROL ROOM.

IMPOSSIBLE. I PERSONALLY TAILED HER FROM HER FRONT DOOR TO THE AIRPORT.
THIS IS NOT COSGROVE.
THEY MUST'VE SWITCHED PLACES ON THE RUNWAY. THIS WOMAN IS A DECOY.
SHE DEAD?
WE FLOODED THE PLANE WITH CHLOROFORM GAS. EVERYONE ABOARD SHOULD HAVE BEEN KNOCKED OUT.
WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS TO HER?
STUNNED... BY A NERVE PINCH IT APPEARS
GUILTY, YOUR HONOR
STRONG LUNGS.
YOU WON'T BE BREATHING MUCH LONGER STRANGER.

AFTER I'VE STOPPED YOUR HEART!
TZZT!
TZZT!
SHUNK!
YOU MUST BE NEW.
OTHERWISE, YOU'D KNOW I MAKE IT A POLICY TO NEVER HIT WOMEN.
EVEN WHEN THEY TRY TO ELECTROCUTE ME.
I CAN TELL YOU'RE SHOCKED.
TTZZZAK!
:@AAH!:
TAP TAP TAP
HERE I MES.

KRSH!

SURE DO PACK A MEAN *WALLOP* THERE, BRUNHILDA
AND HERE I THOUGHT ALL YOU VIKINGS WERE -

TALK! TALK! TALK!
WILL YOU NOT *SHUT UP?!*
KRRRAK!

HRNH
I MAY NOT BE THE *SILENT* TYPE -

- BUT I'M PLENTY *STRONG*

THIN! THIN! THIN!
:KAAH!:

Y'KNOW, MOST (PUH) PEOPLE FIND MY SENSE OF (HNH) HUMOR UNDER PRESSURE CHARMING.
IF MY SHURIKEN WILL NOT STILL YOUR TONGUE--
PERHAPS THIS WILL.
KRAKK!
(UNH!)
SOME AMONG US KNOW WHO YOU ARE, PHANTOM.
OR SHOULD I SAY WHO YOU WERE...
SHHING!
KRAK-TSCH!
(HRK!)

CARE TO DO THE HONORS AISHA?
WITH PLEASURE
TZZZZZZ

MIGHT HAVE TO... RECONSIDER THAT. . NO-HITTING POLICY.
BUT FIRST :RNH: I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE AND FIND DIANA AND :HNH: THE OTHERS...
ZZZAAAK!
:YAAAHH!:
ENOUGH. WITH THE ELECTRICITY ALREADY
WHAT BETTER WAY TO SUBDUE AN IMMORTAL MAN RUMORED TO POSSESSES THE STRENGTH OF TEN TIGERS?
A "GHOST WHO WALKS"... OR SO THE ANCIENT JUNGLE LEGENDS CLAIM...
NICE TO KNOW MY REPUTATION PRECEDES ME.
YOURS DOES, TOO, BY THE WAY THOUGH I'M SORRY TO SAY IT'S NOT QUITE SO FAVORABLE..
YOU REFER TO THE ORIGINAL SKY BAND

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE THOSE WHO HAVE JOINED ME IN CARRYING ON THE TRADITION IN THEIR STEAD. ALBEIT, WITH AN AGENDA UNIQUELY OUR OWN...
AISHA FROM KUWAIT... WHERE HER CHILDHOOD VILLAGE ONCE STOOD, A KUWAIT PETROL DRILL NOW RAPES AND PILLAGES THE EARTH BENEATH HER HOME FOR CRUDE OIL.
ZOPHIA FROM POLAND... THE NAZIS SLAUGHTERED HER GRANDPARENTS, BUT NOT BEFORE CREDIT CHEVALIER SEIZED THEIR HARD-EARNED FAMILY FORTUNE, PREVENTING THEM FROM BUYING THEIR WAY OUT OF DACHAU.
MIHO FROM JAPAN... BECAUSE OF TOXIC WASTE DUMPED INTO THE SEA BY A KUROSAWA PHARMACEUTICAL LAB, THE FISHING TRADE UPON WHICH HER PROVINCE ONCE SURVIVED IS LONG DEAD
SO... THIS IS ALL JUST ABOUT REVENGE?
A MUTUAL DESIRE FOR VENGEANCE WAS THE FLAME THAT DREW US TOGETHER, BUT THIS IS ABOUT SO MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLE GRUDGES.
THIS IS ABOUT FAMILY.
AND THAT IS SOMETHING I KNOW YOU VALUE ABOVE ALL ELSE, PHANTOM-

OR SHOULD I CALL YOU DADDY?
TO BE CONTINUED!

CATSKILL COMICS

Original & Commission Art

Located in the Catskill Mts. of Upstate NY

Scott Kress • Po Box 32 • Mt Marion,NY 12456
PH: 845-246-1026 • Email: coymn@hvc.rr.com

Representing the following artist for original art sales & commissions
Dick Ayers, Mike Grell, David Beck, Brett Breeding, Ron Frenz, Pat Olliffe, Al Bigley
Dave Hoover, Keith Williams, Steve Mannion, Dave Ulanski, Harry Roland, Al Feldstein

NOW AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE... PHANTOM ART!!

Catskill Comics now has over 500 Daily Comic Strip Original art from The Phantom !!
Penciled by George Olesen & Inked by Keith Williams!!

WWW.CATSKILLCOMICS.COM

MOONSTONE™

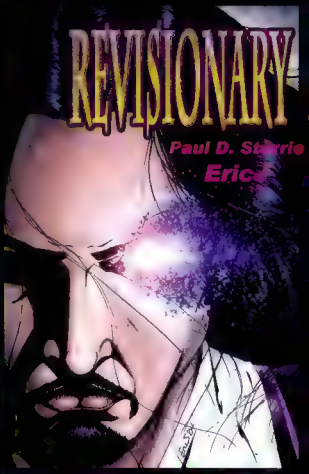
presents

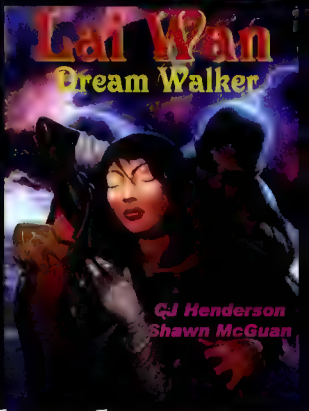
Three new

THRILLERS!

hear the screams...

body...
mind...
and soul!





moonstonebooks.com

KOLCHAK: The Night Stalker
GRAPHIC NOVELS

KOLCHAK: tales of the Night Stalker
COMICS

TWO DIFFERENT WAYS TO GET
PULSE-POUNDING ADVENTURES OF
THE PREMIER PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR

ONLY FROM MOONSTONE™

TOM DEFALCO
DON HUDSON

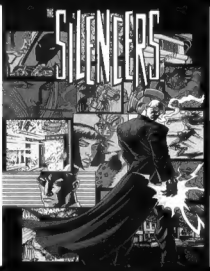
KHAN

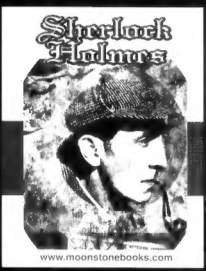
www.moonstonebooks.com

presenting:

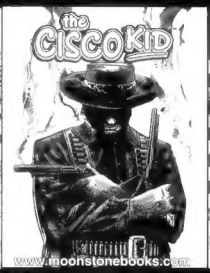
MOONSTONE™

MERCHANDISE MART !





Cool gifts like: Shirts, Hats, Mugs, etc !



A multitude of designs and characters to choose from !

www.cafeshops.com/moonstonebooks

THE PHANTOM
KOLCHAK: the Night Stalker
MOONSTONE NOIR
MOONSTONE MONSTERS
THE SILENCERS
BUCKAROO BANZAI
REVISIONARY
the CISCO KID
WWW.MOONSTONEBOOKS.COM